

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11675

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, NATO, UR, NO
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ARTICLE ON NATO "NORTHERN STRATEGY"

REF: OSLO 3557

SUMMARY: AUG. 9 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ARTICLE HITS NORWEGIANS ON
DEFENSE POLICIES AND ON MILITARY USE OF SPITSBERGEN, BUT IS
NOT AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT AND DOES NOT SEEM TO ALARM NORWEGIAN
EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

2. AUG. 9 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ARTICLE DESCRIBED REFTTEL IS FROM
WEEKLY "INTERNATIONAL MILITARY-POLITICAL REVIEW" COLUMN, THIS
TIME BY COL. YU. BASISTOV AND MAJOR YU. GAVRILOV. ARTICLE AT-
TACKS "NORTHERN STRATEGY" OF NATO AND POINTS OUT CERTAIN WAYS
IN WHICH NORWAY IS ALLEGEDLY VIOLATING OR COMING CLOSE TO VIOL-
ATING ITS OWN DEFENSE POLICIES. SUCH FACTORS ARE MENTIONED AS
"LORAN-C" AND "OMEGA" NAVIGATION SYSTEMS ON NORWEGIAN COAST
FOR USE BY U.S. SSBN'S, ;VISIT BY U.S. NUCLEAR CRUISER
"CALIFORNIA", AND INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF BUNDESWEHR IN
EXERCISES IN NORWAY.

2. TWO PARAGRAPHS ARE DEVOTED TO NORWEGIAN ACQUIESANCE IN
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NATO DESIGNS ON SPITSBERGEN. EVIDENCE FOR NORWEGIAN CULPABIL-
ITY INCLUDES CALLS BY MILITARY SHIPS AND PLANES AND PREPARA-
TION FOR STATIONING OF MILITARY GARRISON ON ARCHIPELAGO. PUNCH
LINE READS, QUOTE:

THE QUESTION ARISES: AND HOW DOES ALL THIS AGREE WITH THE
PROVISIONS OF THE 1920 SPITSBERGEN TREATY WHICH FORBIDS THE
UTILIZATION OF THE ARCHIPELAGO FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THE RED STAR ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE A COMPENDIUM OF SOVIET COMPLAINTS REGARDING NORWEGIAN ACTIVITIES ON A NUMBER OF FRONTS. NONE OF THE ELEMENTS APPEARS TO US TO BE PARTICULARLY NEW OR DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS PRESS TREATMENT. RATHER WE SEE THIS AS ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF PERIODIC SHOTS IN THE OPEN PRESS TAKEN BY THE SOVIETS AT NORWAY. AS FOR THE TIMING OF THIS PARTICULAR SHOT, IT IS PROBABLY MEANT AS A STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD IN ADVANCE OF THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE NORWEGIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. ALSO, SOVIETS ARE SURELY ANNOYED IN GENERAL WITH NORWEGIANS OF LATE BECAUSE OF THEIR DECLARATION OF THE SVALBARD FISHERIES PROTECTION ZONE AND THE NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE BARENTS SEA FISHING ZONE SOLUTION WHICH CAUSED THE GOVERNMENT TO SHELVE THE ISSUE UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION. THE TOUGH WORDING PROBABLY REFLECTS THIS, AND IS CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS PRESS COMMENTS ON THESE ISSUES. THE PLACEMENT IN RED STAR (MOD ORGAN) GIVES THE ARTICLE LESS STATUS THAN A SIMILAR PIECE IN PRAVDA OR IZVESTIYA.

5. IN A SHORT CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFF AND NORWEGIAN DCM KRANE AUGUST 11, LATTER NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR CHANGE IN THE OFFICIAL COMMENTS BY HIS SOVIET CONTACTS AND HE DID NOT THINK THIS ARTICLE PORTENDED ANY MAJOR CHANGE IN SOVIET-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS. HE DOES ANTICIPATE THAT RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE ALONG THE RATHER ROCKY ROAD WHICH THEY HAVE TRAVELED
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IN THE PAST YEAR, PARTICULARLY IF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FALLS IN THE ELECTION TO A COALITION WHICH HAS ALREADY DENOUNCED THE EVENSEN TREATY ON THE BARENTS SEA.
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